

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

PERIOD: _____

Family Narrative Interview

Unit 3: Immigration

Read: *The Stories the Bind Us*, New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html>

Essential Questions:

- ❖ How do I connect to history and why does it matter?
- ❖ How does where I come from affect where I'm going and who I'll become?
- ❖ How and why do we tell the stories of our families?
- ❖ What shapes my world view?

Select a Family Member that you feel could provide information on the following:

Family Member I will interview: _____

IMMIGRATION/MIGRATION: How and why did your family move to the U.S. or Oregon? (This can be someone who moved from another country or state.) What kinds of experiences did this person have once they moved here? How was life different or similar?

Family Narrative Project

STEP 1: Plan and Prep for the interview

1. Who will you interview?
2. What topic will you interview him/her about? (Are you interviewing your family member about their own experience or what they know about their ancestors' experience, etc.?)
3. What do you already know about this family member's experience with this topic?
4. When will you conduct your interview?

Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

Step 2: Interview Questions

DIRECTIONS: Create interview questions! *What do you really want to know?*

SOME HELPFUL INTERVIEW TIPS

- Questions that begin with “why” or “how did you feel about...” generally result in better, more extensive answers than questions which require only a “yes” or “no” answer.

EXAMPLES: What were their motivations for taking part in this “move”? Did they have a choice? What obstacles did they encounter? How did the experience change them? What do you remember most about ? What images come to mind when you think of _____? What were your feelings about this move?

FINAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Please record your list of interview questions below.

1	
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OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK:

Step 4: Conducting the Interview

Try to put your questions in a logical order that will help you learn the proper sequence of events for your family member's historical experience. Leave enough space between each question so that you can write down the answers during the course of your interview. Use wide margins to allow for extensive notes and answers to additional questions that may arise.

All of the interviews will be conducted independently, so you may want to consider using a tape recorder to capture all of the conversation while you engage in the oral history interview. If you record your interview, you can transcribe (write down) the questions and answers you taped. **IF YOU RECORD, YOU MUST ASK PERMISSION FIRST!**

Go over your questions before you start the interview. Remember, a good interview is a conversation. Listen carefully while your interviewee is talking. Often, what a person says may require a follow-up question that will produce interesting information. For example, if your interviewee mentions the influence of his or her high school teacher, you might follow up by asking about the teacher – Why did the teacher have a strong influence on you? What made the person a good teacher? Did you keep in contact with the teacher? etc.

Don't worry if your interview seems to go off on an unrelated tangent; it may contain some of the best information, **so take notes**. Pause during the interview when you sense that your interviewee needs time to think about something.

Step 5: Sharing Your Findings

You have a few options on how you want to share what you learned in your interview...But feel free to create your own option if you'd like! (Just make sure you check with me first!)

- 1) A reflection essay (at least one FULL page) on the entire experience/what you learned
- 2) An essay connecting at least one of the above listed essential questions to this interview experience
- 3) A poster that visually reflects your family member's story
- 4) A "news" article that documents your interview
- 5) A 1 pager that embodies your family member's story
- 6) A poem
- 7) A timeline of your family member's story
- 8) A short story from the perspective of your family member

40 Possible Points Total

YOU WILL TURN IN THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Your interview questions
- 2) Your interview notes (Please **no recordings or videos**---just your written notes!).
- 3) Your creative sharing of your findings

Due:

Feel free to use the back of this document to collect the notes you take from your interview!

INTERVIEW ANSWERS (NOTES):